

The Federal Communications Commission

Dear The Federal Communications Commission,

I do not want to pay more for my telephone service! I urge you to reject a flat fee proposal that would change how contributions are made to the Universal Service Fund. I am concerned that this proposal could make my current service unaffordable.

Under the flat fee proposal you are considering, people who make few long distance calls would pay the same as people or businesses that make many calls. In other words, low-volume and primarily residential customers would bear the same universal service fund burden as a high-volume residential or business customers. This is unfair!

I use my wireless phone for safety, security and convenience. I don't want to lose these benefits so that big businesses can pay less than their fair share. I urge you to reject the proposal to move the USF collection system to a flat-fee.

I have a 36 year old son who has had two open heart surgeries and whose sole income is SSI which pays him \$515.00 per month.

My wife and I have been involved with the poor in one way or another for more than 40 years and are well aware of the razor thin margins they are living on. Some working three jobs and barely making it. Unable to acquire and/or to pay for regular telephone service wireless has been a godsend to them. If you change the USF collection system it will devastate hundreds of thousands if not millions of people who would then be unable to afford even a low cost prepaid wireless phone.

We ourselves needed a wireless phone but were unable to afford one until last November, and although a change would not affect us at this point, we know of many people, including our son, who would have no choice but to lose the little phone service that they have.

And the unintended consequences of the change would inevitably result, as in pre-wireless days in such scenarios, among thousands of others, as:

My baby, Amelia, was sick in the middle of the night but I had no way to call for help. By the time I was able to rouse a neighbor who had a phone and call 911 20 minutes went by and although it took the ambulance only 12 minutes to arrive, my baby died in my arms as the EMT reached for her;

As I was walking toward the neighborhood store three blocks away in mid-afternoon I saw an elderly person, who was walking a few yards ahead of me, suddenly collapse on the sidewalk. I ran to that person and he was in great pain and clasp his chest. I had no wireless phone as I could no longer afford one and neither did he. I knocked on some doors but nobody answered. I ran to the neighborhood store and they called 911. By the time the ambulance arrived I estimate that from the time he collapsed to its arrival almost half an hour had elapsed. He died shortly after arriving in the emergency room.

How many other scenarios, a neighbors home, or your own, on fire; someone breaking into a neighbors home or your own, traffic accidents, gang fights, etc., etc., etc.

Please, do not change the USF burden, the poor have more than their fair share of the economic burden already.

Sincerely,

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Keep the USF Fair!

Sincerely,

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